

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

1. (Currently Amended) A medical practice information storage and searching system comprising:

a medical practice information storage unit for receiving attribute information and medical practice information of a plurality of medical institutions from the plurality of medical institutions through a communication line;

a searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the attribute and medical practice information stored in the medical practice information storage unit is searched for; and

an information delivery unit for searching for the attribute and medical practice information in the medical practice information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched attribute information and medical practice information through the communication line.

2. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a medical institution information storage unit for receiving medical institution information, identifying a particular medical institution from among the plurality of medical institutions, from the plurality of medical institutions through the communication lines;

a medical institution searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the medical institution information stored in the medical institution information storage unit is searched for; and

a medical institution information delivery unit for searching for the medical institution information in the medical institution information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the medical institution searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched medical institution information through the communication line.

3. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a geographic information storage unit for storing geographic information indicating locations of the plurality of medical institutions;

a geographic searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the geographic information stored in the geographic information storage unit is searched for; and

a geographic information delivery unit for searching for the geographic information in the geographic information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the geographic searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched geographic information through the communication line.

4. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a request acceptance information storage unit for receiving request acceptance information of the plurality of medical institutions from the plurality of medical institutions through the communication line;

a request acceptance information searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the request acceptance information stored in the request acceptance information storage unit is searched for; and

a request acceptance information delivery unit for searching for the request acceptance information in the request acceptance information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the request acceptance information searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched request acceptance information through the communication line.

5. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a personal information storage unit for receiving, from the plurality of medical institutions through the communication line, personal information of patients who receive medical treatments in the plurality of medical institutions;

a personal information searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the personal information stored in the personal information storage unit is searched for; and

a personal information delivery unit for searching for the personal information in the personal information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the

personal information searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched personal information through the communication line.

6. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a transport information storage unit for storing transport information relating to appropriate transportation for the plurality of medical institutions with the transport information linked to the plurality of medical institutions;

a transport searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the transport information relating to the appropriate transportation for the plurality of medical institutions and stored in the transport information storage unit is searched for; and

a transport information delivery unit for searching for the transport information in the transport information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the transport searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched transport information through the communication line.

7. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a food-service company information storage unit for storing information of food-service companies which provide appropriate food service to patients who receive medical treatments in the plurality of medical institutions;

a food-service company searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the food-service company information stored in the food-service company information storage unit is searched for; and

a food-service company information delivery unit for searching for the food-service company information in the food-service company information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the food-service company searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched food-service company information through the communication line.

8. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a life insurance information storage unit for storing information of life insurance which covers patients who receive medical treatments in the plurality of medical institutions;

a life insurance searching criteria receiving unit for receiving, through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the life insurance information stored in the life insurance information storage unit is searched for; and

a life insurance information delivery unit for searching for the life insurance information in the life insurance information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the life insurance searching criteria receiving unit, and for delivering the searched life insurance information through the communication line.

9. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, wherein the medical practice information storage unit comprises a medical

service record information storage block for storing medical service record information in the medical institution as the medical practice information;

wherein the searching criteria receiving unit comprises a medical service record information searching criteria receiving block for receiving a medical service record information searching criteria in accordance with which the medical service record information stored in the medical practice information storage unit is searched for; and

wherein the information delivery unit comprises a medical service record information delivery block for searching for the medical service record information in the medical service record information storage block in accordance with the medical service record information searching criteria received by the medical service record information searching criteria receiving block, and for delivering the searched medical service record information through the communication line.

10. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 9, wherein the medical service record information storage block stores patient count information indicating a patient count in the medical institution as the medical service record information.

11. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 9, wherein the medical service record information storage block stores operation count information indicating an operation count of operations conducted by the medical institution as the medical service record information.

12. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 9, wherein the medical service record information storage block stores inpatient count information indicating an inpatient count in the medical institution as the medical service record information.

13. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 9, wherein the medical service record information storage block stores complete cure rate information indicating a complete cure rate in the medical institution as the medical service record information.

14. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, wherein the medical practice information storage unit comprises a study result information storage block that stores study result information of studies conducted by the medical institution as the medical practice information;

wherein the searching criteria receiving unit comprises a study result information searching criteria receiving block for receiving study result information searching criteria in accordance with which the study result information stored in the study result information storage block is searched for; and

wherein the information delivery unit comprises a study result information delivery block for searching for the study result information in the study result information storage block in accordance with the study result information searching criteria received by the study result information searching criteria receiving block, and for delivering the searched study result information through the communication line.

15. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, wherein the medical practice information storage unit comprises a medical staff information storage block for storing information of medical staff in the medical institution as the medical practice information;

wherein the searching criteria receiving unit comprises a medical staff information searching criteria receiving block for receiving medical staff information searching criteria in accordance with which the medical staff information stored in the medical staff information storage block is searched for; and

wherein the information delivery unit comprises a medical staff information delivery block for searching for the medical staff information in the medical staff information storage block in accordance with the medical staff information searching criteria received by the medical staff information searching criteria receiving block, and for delivering the searched medical staff information through the communication line.

16. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 15, wherein the medical staff information storage block stores staff member count information indicating the number of staff members in the medical institution.

17. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 15, wherein the medical staff information storage block stores physicians' career information indicating the career of the physicians working for the medical institution.



18. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, wherein the medical practice storage unit comprises a medical facility information storage block for storing information of a medical facility in the medical institution as the medical practice information;

wherein the searching criteria receiving unit comprises a medical facility information searching criteria receiving block for receiving a medical facility information searching criteria in accordance with which the medical facility information stored in the medical facility information storage block is searched for; and

wherein the information delivery unit comprises a medical facility information delivery block for searching for the medical facility information in accordance with the medical facility information searching criteria received by the medical facility information searching criteria receiving block, and for delivering the searched medical facility information through the communication line.

19. (Original) A medical practice information storage and searching system according to claim 1, wherein the medical practice information storage unit comprises a medicine information storage block for storing information of medicines used in the medical institution as the medical practice information;

wherein the searching criteria receiving unit comprises a medicine information searching criteria receiving block for receiving medicine information searching criteria in accordance with which the medicine information stored in the medicine information storage block is searched for; and

a medicine information delivery block for searching for the medicine information in accordance with the medicine information searching criteria received by the medicine information searching criteria receiving block, and for delivering the searched medicine information through the communication line.

20. (Previously Presented) A medical practice information storage and searching method comprising:

a medical practice information storage step for receiving attribute information and medical practice information of a plurality of medical institutions from the plurality of medical institutions through a communication line and storing the attribute and medical practice information into a medical storage unit;

a searching criteria receiving step for receiving, at a searching criteria receiving unit through the communication line, searching criteria in accordance with which the attribute and medical practice information stored in the medical practice information storage unit is searched for;

a medical information searching step for searching for the attribute and medical practice information in the medical practice information storage unit in accordance with the searching criteria received by the searching criteria receiving unit; and

an information delivery step for delivering the attribute and medical practice information, searched in the medical information searching step, through the communication line.

21. (Previously Presented) A medical practice information storage and searching system comprising:

a first medical practice information input unit, arranged in a first medical institution, for inputting institution attribute and fact information about medical practice conducted by the first medical institution as first medical practice information;

a first medical practice information transmitter for transmitting, through a communication line, the first medical practice attribute and fact information input by the first medical practice information input unit;

a second medical practice information input unit, arranged in a second medical institution, for inputting institution attribute and fact information about medical practice conducted by the second medical institution as second medical practice information;

a second medical practice information transmitter for transmitting, through the communication line, the second medical practice attribute and fact information input by the second medical practice information input unit;

a medical practice information receiver for receiving, through the communication line, the first medical practice attribute and fact information transmitted from the first medical practice information transmitter and the second medical practice attribute and fact information transmitted from the second medical practice information transmitter;

a medical practice information storage unit for storing the first and second medical practice attribute and fact information received by the medical practice information receiver;

a medical practice searching information input unit for inputting searching command information that provides a command to search for the first and second medical practice fact and attribute information stored in the medical practice information storage unit;

a searching command information transmitter for transmitting the searching command information, input by the medical practice searching information input unit, through the communication line;

a searching command information receiver for receiving the searching command information, transmitted by the searching command information transmitter, through the communication line;

a medical practice information searching unit for searching for the first and second medical practice attribute and fact information stored in the medical practice information storage unit in accordance with the searching command information received by the searching command information receiver;

a search result information transmitter for transmitting the search result, provided by the medical practice information searching unit, through the communication line;

a search result information receiver for receiving the search result, transmitted by the search result information transmitter, through the communication line; and

a search result display unit for displaying the search result received by the search result information receiver on display means.

22. (Previously Presented) A medical practice information storage and searching method comprising:

a first medical practice information input step for inputting first medical practice fact and attribute information from a first medical practice information input unit that inputs fact information about medical practice conducted by a first medical institution as the first medical practice information;

a first medical practice information transmitting step for transmitting, through a communication line, the first medical practice attribute and fact information input in the first medical practice information input step;

a second medical practice information input step for inputting second medical practice attribute and fact information from a second medical practice information input unit that inputs fact information about medical practice conducted by a second medical institution as the second medical practice information;

a second medical practice information transmitting step for transmitting, through the communication line, the second medical practice attribute and fact information input in the second medical practice information input step;

a medical practice information receiving step for receiving, through the communication line, the first medical practice attribute and fact information transmitted in the first medical practice information transmitting step and the second medical practice attribute and fact information transmitted in the second medical practice information transmitting step;

a medical practice information storage step for storing the first and second medical practice attribute and fact information received in the medical practice information receiving step;

a medical practice searching information input step for inputting searching command information that provides a command to search for the first and second medical practice attribute and fact information stored in the medical practice information storage unit;

a searching command information transmitting step for transmitting the searching command information, input in the medical practice searching information input step, through the communication line;

a searching command information receiving step for receiving the searching command information, transmitted in the searching command information transmitting step, through the communication line;

a medical practice information searching step for searching for the first and second medical practice attribute and fact information stored in the medical practice information storage means in accordance with the searching command information received in the searching command information receiving step;

a search result information transmitting step for transmitting the search result provided in the medical practice information searching step through the communication line;

a search result information receiving step for receiving the search result transmitted in the search result information transmitting step through the communication line;  
and

a search result displaying step for displaying the search result received in the search result information receiving step on a display unit.

23. (Previously Presented) The medical practice information storage and searching system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the attribute information of the plurality of medical institutions includes local area information, and type information.

24. (Previously Presented) The medical practice information storage and searching method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said medical practice attribute information includes local area information and type information.

25. (Previously Presented) The medical practice information storage and searching system as set forth in claim 21, wherein said medical practice attribute information includes local area information and type information.

26. (Previously Presented) The medical practice information storage and searching method as set forth in claim 22, wherein said medical practice attribute information includes local area information and type information.

27. (Previously Presented) The medical practice information storage and searching system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of local area information servers for handling local-area information, connected to a communication network; and

a general information management server that exchanges information with the plurality of local-area information servers to manage information;

wherein the plurality of local-area information servers are each connected to homes that subscribe to a public communication provider through a public communication line such as a cable, said local-area information servers connected as well to a local community medical institution group that comprises at least a general hospital or other community healthcare services provider, and pharmaceutical provider in order to exchange information therewith via a dedicated line; and

wherein the general information management server exchanges information with the plurality of local-area information servers via the public communication line, exchanges information with a plurality of transports via a dedicated line, and opens a homepage on the communication network to make available a variety of medical information relating to the local community medical institution group and transport information derived from the plurality of transports obtained by the local-area information servers.